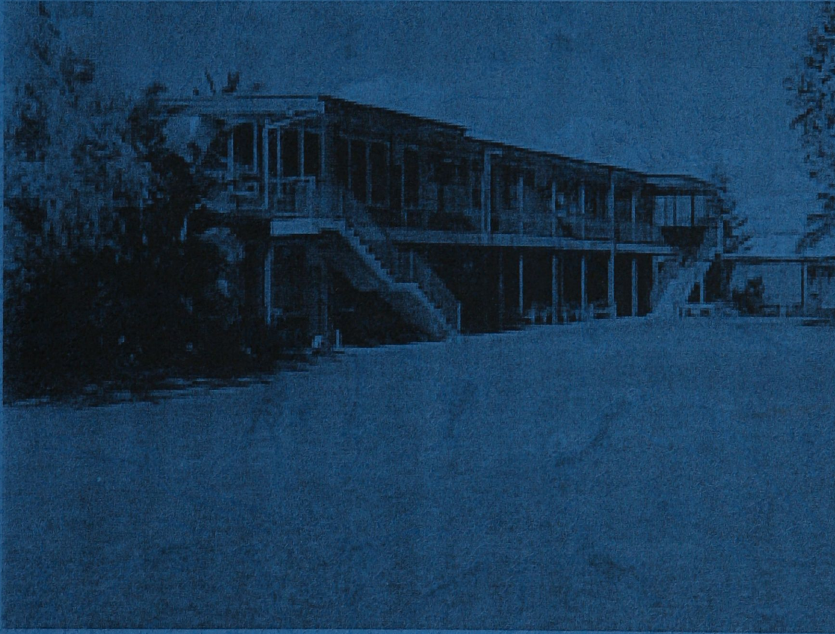


O'MEARA'S VINEYARD

A SHORT HISTORY OF CANOSSA CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL TREBONNE
1951- 2001

*"I can assure you that they come full of good will to work,
within the limit of our Holy Rule, in your vineyard."*

(Mother Vittoria Garre to Father David O'Meara, *Correspondence*, January 6, 1951)



Bianka Vidonja Balanzategui

O'MEARA'S VINEYARD

A SHORT HISTORY OF CANOSSA CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL

TREBONNE 1951- 2001

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This book is dedicated to those, from 1951 to 2001,
who have given their talents, their generosity,
their time and their love to "*our wonderful little area of
Canossa*"*

*Girgenti, R. *President's Annual Report to Canossa P&F A.G.M.* May 3, 1995

O'MEARA'S VINEYARD

**A SHORT HISTORY OF CANOSSA CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
TREBONNE 1951- 2001**

**by
Bianka Vidonja Balanzategui**

Bianka Vidonja Balanzategui 2001

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FOREWORD

CANOSSA DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY

PROVINCIALATE OFFICE
341 Gregory Terrace
Brisbane Q 4000

Telephone (07) 38396334
Fax (07) 38396065

In St. Magdalen of Canossa's writings, the aim of education is to promote the integral and harmonious development of the whole person through positive relationships so that the students may grow in the knowledge and appreciation of self and of the present reality, and ultimately recognize God's love in each personal life.

In reading these pages that Bianka Vidonja Balanzatequi put together so beautifully as a short history of Canossa School, I heard also the voices of the past and present students, their families, the teachers and the Trebonne Community that touched by the Canossian spirit cooperated to build 'Canossa Trebonne', an unique and wonderful community, imbued by the Canossians Family Spirit.

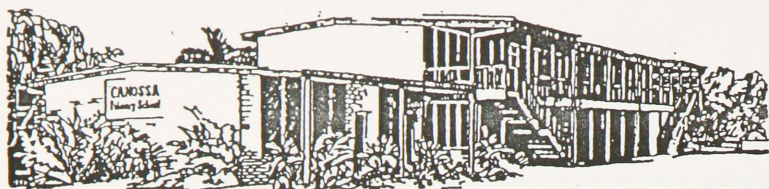
In my brief and most recent visit to the school, talking to the Principal I strongly perceived that also the style of Canossian education is expressed through a delicate blending of amiability and a certain firmness, familiarity and respect mingled with joy.

Together with our first four Sisters (now in heaven) that arrived in Trebonne on February 2, 1951 we, the Canossian Sisters are now united in celebration with Trebonne Community for the 50 years of Canossa School and in prayers of thanksgiving for the blessing for having been part of God's project in establishing the School.

May our loving God continue to enhance life through education. May he sustain the effort and hopes of the present with re-newed energy the energy that comes from the Spirit of Jesus alive and present in Canossa School. We ask God's blessings upon the students, staff and the whole community of Trebonne.

Sr. Concetta Coppe FdCC
Provincial Superior

Wednesday, March 07, 2001



Phone: 07 47771330

Fax: 07 47771374

PO Box 15

TREBONNE Q 4850

Email: trbne@ceo.tsv.catholic.edu.au

Canossa Primary School

Offering a Catholic Education for Pre-School to Year 7

Established in 1951

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I am honoured to be given the chance to write an entry in this short history of Canossa Catholic Primary School.

When I accepted the position of leadership at Canossa Primary School in late 1998, I didn't even know where Trebonne was, let alone know that there was a small Catholic School situated in the township. However, I felt my spirit being called.

I found myself welcomed with open arms by not only school families, but the wider community as well. The love and respect that people show for their local Catholic school and for those who strive to keep its traditions alive are boundless.

The accomplishments of those who have gone before me and those who are currently working together now, cannot go unapplauded. Through their efforts they ensure that the little light of Catholic Education in Trebonne has not and will not be extinguished.

I feel that the spirit of Magdalene is present not only within the walls of our buildings, but in the heart of each and every person that make up our school family. The children in particular, can be seen living out the school motto (Via, Vita, Veritas) in their daily exploits, as they strive to excel in all that they do, whether it be on the sporting field, performing in cultural events or tackling the rigours of academia.

I look forward to the future with great anticipation. Whether or not enrolment numbers can be boosted to those of the past is uncertain. What is certain however, is that the spirit that is Canossa will be alive in the hearts of every child that has had the opportunity to be educated in its classrooms and can say with pride that they are a Canossian!

May the Spirit of the Lord shine on you always

Belinda Moran
Principal

March 7 2001



Plate 1: Canossian Sisters outside of Convent. Pictured are thought to be Mothers Josephine Rezzonico, Susanna Castelli, Maria Sironi, Carla Riva, Vittoria Garre, Antonietta Novello, Teresa Livio and Regina Gaspardo.



Plate 2: Current teaching staff: Pierina Masatto, Simona Marano, Belinda Moran, Katherine Black and Preschool Teacher's Aide: Venus Di Giacomo



Plate 3: Ancillary staff: Jenelle Woolley, Kellie Jevons, Clare Garner, Debbie Sartor, and Cathie Sorbello

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to be able to send my children to a Canossian School. My children are particularly fortunate to have known several Canossian Sisters quite well. In our early days of attending Sunday Mass at the Canossa Chapel as a young family, Sister Carla Riva "adopted" us. We were touched by her gentleness, her love and her humour. I'll never forget the day my little son, saw a white dress walking towards him and rushed up to hug his beloved Sister Carla around the legs only to look up and see that they WEREN'T Sister Carla's legs he was hugging. His little face crumpled in fright and embarrassment! I remember Sister Nedda recruiting little Javier on another Sunday Mass day for her Preschool. He was to come for practice preschool until he could formally begin the next year! A potential Canossian student wasn't going to get away, and he didn't!

It is therefore with great pleasure and humility that I have written this short history as my contribution to the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

I must first acknowledge, that unavoidably, you will find inaccuracies in this little work. I was very pleased to find how substantial the archived material was. However, there are periods of time from the mid-fifties to the early sixties, and again from the late seventies to the mid-eighties where few records exist. Furthermore, records are sometimes contradictory and unfortunately peoples' memories are fallible.

Pauline Pennisi, David Reeson, Henry Matthews, Barbara Debono, Mark Balanzategui and Belinda Moran are gratefully acknowledged for their help. Their technical knowledge, editing skills and constructive comments are appreciated. I also thank the 'printing team' whose efficient work ensured that the book was ready in time.

I thank all those who shared reminiscences or supplied information, anecdotes or photographs.

Above all I acknowledge ALL the wonderful people that have made up the Canossian community over the years: Sisters, parents, students, lay teachers, ancillary staff and friends of the School. Unfortunately there are far too many people for everybody to receive a mention in this little history. This history is like a photograph album: a collection of 'snapshots' of some memorable moments of the past.

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